

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 04978 140936Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /068 W
-----140937Z 130001 /11

O P 140815Z MAY 77 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1636
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY

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TEHRAN PLEASE PASS TO PETER CONSTABLE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR,PINT, PGOV, PK
SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

1. SUMMARY: MAY 14 PAK PRESS HIGHLIGHTED PM'S MAY 13
SPEECH. AMENDMENT BILL PROPOSING CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES
NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT PM'S REFERENDUM WILL REPORTEDLY
BE INTRODUCED MAY 16. FURTHER CRACKDOWN ON OPPOSITION
LEADERS MAY BE IN PROCESS FOLLOWING PM'S MAY 13 SPEECH.
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MAY 13 SAW PROCESSIONS AND LOW LEVEL VIOLENCE IN SEVERAL
CITIES. MINI-DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE IN FRONT OF EMBASSY
ISLAMABAD MAY 13. ANTI-AMERICAN REPORTAGE IN PRESS WE
SEE FOLLOWED FORM OF PAST WEEK. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL PAKISTANI NEWSPAPERS MAY 14 HIGHLIGHTED THE PM'S
SPEECH IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MAY 13. FRONT PAGE PIECE

IN PAKISTAN TIMES BY H.K. BURKI, LAUDED PM'S CALL FOR A REFERENDUM AND NOTED THAT THE PM HAD ALSO CALLED FOR A BETTER BALANCE IN THE VARIOUS ORGANS OF THE STATE. THE PM NOTED THAT THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS HAD LED THE COUNTRY TO THE BRINK OF DISASTER AND THE STATE STRUCTURE WOULD HAVE TO BE MODIFIED, IF HE WON THE REFERENDUM TO MEET THE NATION'S "OBJECTIVE CONDITIONS." THE PRIME MINISTER, HOWEVER, DID NOT ELABORATE ON WHAT HE HAD IN MIND.

3. THE PARLIAMENT WILL MEET IN A JOINT SITTING MAY 14, BUT IT IS REPORTED THAT THE AMENDMENT BILL PROPOSING THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES NECESSARY TO PERMIT THE PM'S REFERENDUM TO TAKE PLACE WILL BE INTRODUCED MONDAY, MAY 16. NO DETAILS OF THE MEASURE ARE AVAILABLE.

4. FURTHER CRACKDOWN ON OPPOSITION PAKISTAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE (PNA) LEADERS MAY HAVE BEGUN FOLLOWING PM'S MAY 13 SPEECH. PIR OF PAGARO WAS DENIED ACCESS MAY 13 NIGHT OF PNA LEADERS JAILED AT SIHALA. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THE PNA LEADERS ARE BEING SHIFTED FROM SIHALA TO SEPARATE JAILS.

5. CONSTITUENT POSTS WILL REPORT LOCAL SECURITY SITUATION BY SEPTEL. HOWEVER, PAK WIRE SERVICES REPORTS CARRIED IN MAY 14 NEWSPAPERS WE RECEIVED STATE THAT INCIDENTS OCCURRED MAY 13 IN LAHORE, KARACHI, HYDERABAD AND MULTAN. A WOMEN'S PROCESSION TOOK PLACE IN RAWALPINDI MAY 13, BUT NO INJURIES OR COERSIVE MEASURES WERE REPORTED. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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6. A MINI-DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD MAY 13. FIVE OR SIX YOUNG PEOPLE, CLAIMING TO BE STUDENTS FROM LYALLPUR, SAT ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE EMBASSY AND HELD PLACARDS. THEY TOLD EMBASSY SY PERSONNEL AND POLICE THEY WERE GOING TO STAGE A 24-HOUR HUNGER STRIKE PROTESTING ALLEGED U.S. INTERFERENCE IN PAK INTERNAL AFFAIRS. WITH NON-VIOLENT POLICE PERSUASION AND WITHIN SIGHT OF AN APPROACHING THUNDER STORM, THE DEMONSTRATORS DEPARTED. THEY WERE REPORTED IN MAY 14 MORNING NEWSPAPERS TO BE CONTINUING THEIR HUNGER STRIKE AT THE POLICE STATION. THEY DID NOT REQUEST PERMISSION TO SUBMIT A PETITION TO EMBASSY.

7. LEVEL OF ANTI-AMERICAN REPORTAGE IN NEWSPAPERS WE RECEIVED MAY 14 WAS RELATIVELY CONSISTENT WITH THAT OF THE PAST WEEK. AMSTUTZ

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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